The Time We Were Blooming

ぼくらの花の咲くころの

Kita Ako Presents

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MY WORLD HAS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
I'M 14 YEARS OLD
IT'S SUMMER
COME ON, MAIKO
SOMEHOW...

...I SEE FLOWERS INSTEAD OF HEADS ON PEOPLE WHO ARE IN LOVE.
HEY, ICHI...
THESE DAYS...
DOES EVERYONE LOOK WEIRD TO YOU?
WEIRD HOW?
UM, HOW TO PUT IT?
WELL...
THE WEIRDO HERE IS YOU...
'CAUSE ALL YOU DO IS SIT ON YOUR ASS... AND YOU SPACE OUT A LOT, SHRIMP
GET RUNNING
WHAT DOES BEING SHORT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
THIS IS ICHI, MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND
AS A MEMBER OF THE TRACK-AND-FIELD CLUB, HE RUNS, EATS, AND RUNS
THE WORLD AS I SEE IT...
FLOWERS
FLOWERS

WHAT ON EARTH DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS?
BIOLOGY LAB
ICHI IS SURROUNDED BY FLOWERS
THIS IS AN ANGIOSPERM— A FLOWERING PLANT
COME CLOSER FOR A BETTER LOOK
DO YOU KNOW WHY PLANTS FLOWER?
FLOWERS, WITH THEIR BRIGHTLY COLORED PETALS, ATTRACT VECTORS,
INCREASING CHANCES OF POLLINATION—
FLOWERS, HUH?
IT'S LIKE
YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING INSIDE THEM

THUD
WHOM!
MAIKO?!
TEACHER!
I.
DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THAT
I WILL, ONCE WE'RE AT THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
YOU'RE ANEMIC
WHAT?
I-
PUT ME DOWN. PUT-
ICHI!

thump
thump
thump
thump
SPRING
NOW NOW
BACK TO BED
NO
WAY.

TURN
NAH I WAS JUST FREAKING OUT
THE LAST TIME WE WERE THAT CLOSE...
WAS WHEN WE WERE KIDS
sitting
out
IT'S NOT REAL
I'LL WALK YOU HOME.
I WANT TO...
GO BACK TO THE WAY WE USED TO BE, FAST.

IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, SPIT IT OUT.
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD.
YOU GET SICK. YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO AVOID ME.
Y-
YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
YOU'VE GOT PRACTICE, RIGHT?
ANYWAY, I'LL RUN BACK HERE.
CAN'T LET YOU BLACK OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET. PEOPLE MIGHT WALK ALL OVER YOU.
SHRUNK
YOUR BAG.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T SEE THAT.
EVEN THOUGH WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR SO LONG.
HE'S KIND.
HE MATCHES ME STEP FOR STEP.
WHEN WE'RE WALKING TOGETHER, HE DOESN'T PUT A SPACE BETWEEN US
WHICH REMINDS ME
WATCH OUT.
hont-

I CAN GO HOME...
ON MY OWN,
YOU KNOW.
WHEN...
NO!
SHOVE
DID I-
GROSS.
FINE.
I'M SO EMBARRASSED.

DON'T SPACE OUT AND LET A CAR HIT YOU
ICHI.
MM?
SAY, DIDN'T YOU AND TERAKAWA ALWAYS COME TO SCHOOL TOGETHER?
EVER SINCE GRADE SCHOOL? NOW YOU GUYS DON'T HANG OUT IN THE MORNINGS ANYMORE
I HOPE...

SO I CAN GO BACK TO NORMAL, THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE.
AND MY FEELINGS DIE...
...THE FLOWER WILTS AWAY...
THAT WAY,
WE CAN START HANGING OUT AGAIN.

MAIKO?
WHAT'S WRONG?!
WHAT IS IT?
OH, MAN.
IT'S GROWN SO BIG...
JUST BECAUSE I STOPPED TALKING TO HIM.
FAR FROM WILTING,
IT'S IN FULL BLOOM.
ICHI.
WELL, I...
LISTEN, ICHI,
I...

I GET SUPER SHY.
THESE DAYS, WHENEVER I'M WITH YOU
MY HEART BEATS LIKE CRAZY.
I GET BUTTER-FLIES IT GROSSES ME OUT.
BUT IS IT STILL OKAY...
FOR ME TO HANG OUT WITH YOU?
MY HEART IS GOING INTO OVERDRIVE RIGHT NOW.
THAT PROBABLY SOUNDS REALLY GROSS, BUT...

AND..
OF COURSE IT'S OKAY.
I DON'T THINK IT'S GROSS
THAT'S A SMALL IF-YOU'RE STILL YOU
EVEN IF I DO-
AS LONG AS IT'S YOU...
I'M MORE THAN OKAY WITH IT.

OH!
A FLOWER.
SEE FLOWERS
I NO LONGER
AFTER THAT,
I'M SURE MINE IS STILL BLOSSOMING,
PRETTILY,
THOUGH!
fin.

Kita Ako

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Delish Scans

brought to you by

Delle, Lt, & Cious